

PUBLIC SAFETY – Sex Offenders

Our Agenda Today

- Annual Evaluations Backlog:
Status & Plan (SCC)
- Assessment and Research (SCC)
- Reducing Juvenile Sex Offender
Recidivism (JRA)
- Reducing Juvenile Sex Offender
Homelessness (JRA)
- Locating Juvenile Sex Offender Parolees
(JRA)

Presented by:

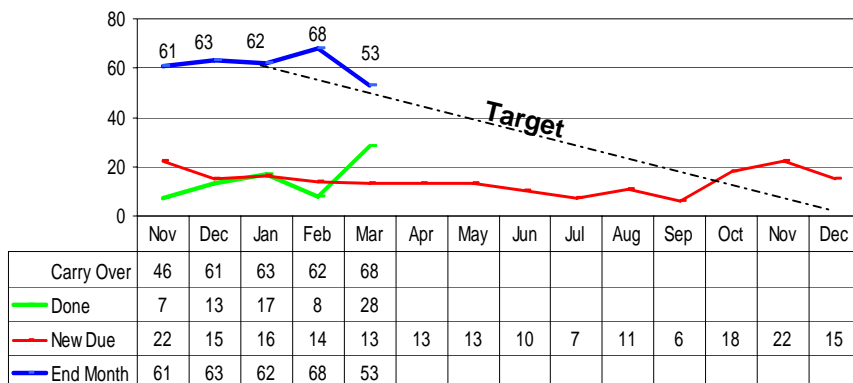
Robin Arnold-Williams, Secretary

Department of Social and Health Services

Public Safety: DSHS Special Commitment Center (SCC)

Is SCC Producing Timely Annual Evaluations?

GOAL: Zero Backlog by December 31, 2006



Situation:

- Each civilly committed resident must be evaluated annually for the court of commitment
- Court schedules result in more evaluations coming due during winter months
- A lack capacity to complete timely evaluations leads to an increased risk of inappropriate releases (though it has not happened yet)
- SCC is increasing its capacity to complete timely evaluations by:
 - Implementing incentives to retain experienced staff
 - Hiring and training new staff
 - Increasing contracted evaluators from four to eight

Analysis:

- Early progress toward reducing overdue evaluations was flat, due to staff loss, hiring and training new staff
- Staff productivity will increase to 3 evals per month by July 2006; contractors as a group will average 4 evals
- Full evaluation productivity will be about 24 evals per month when hiring and training completed in June.
- Evaluations are counted "done" when sent to courts.

Actions	Who	Target Date
Employ one additional staff evaluator	SCC Forensic Unit Manager	3/31/06
Complete assignment pay plan	SCC administration, Human Resources Division, DOP	DONE 1/06
Implement incentives		4/30/06
Complete new staff training	SCC Forensic Unit Manager	6/30/06
Meet monthly performance standard of 3 evaluations	All current and each new staff evaluator	6/30/06

Does State Sex Offender Assessment Work?

Situation:

- WSIPP* reported unfavorably on the tool used to assess sex offender risk and classify levels
- WSIPP recommended:
 - Rigorous review of existing... risk assessment research
 - Involvement of clinicians & those... using the assessment
 - Construction of an assessment tool that combines the best information available in the research literature
 - Further statistical analyses

Analysis:

- New laws have increased consequences of sex offender levels and notification.
- The science has changed, requiring review of risk assessment tools
- An initiative as outlined by WSIPP requires long-term, close collaboration between stakeholders (WSIPP, SCC, JRA, DOC, the ISRB, and WASPC)

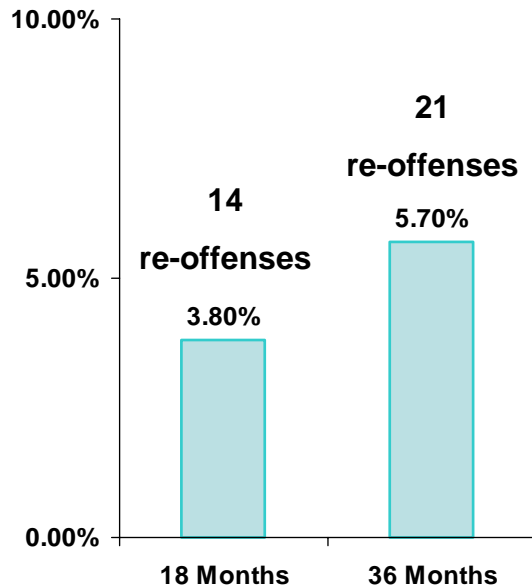
Goal:

Improve Accuracy of Sex Offender Risk Assessment in Washington State

Actions	Who	Target Date
Confirm stakeholders' agreement to participate in initiative	DOC and DSHS Secretaries	4/10/06
Convene stakeholder group to appoint steering committee	DSHS and DOC Secretaries, WSIPP Director	4/28/06
Complete project plan, policy level budget decision package	Steering committee, SCC/DSHS fiscal staff and management	5/19/06

* SOURCE: Washington State Institute for Public Policy Report, January 2006, "Sex Offender Sentencing in Washington State: Sex Offender Risk Level Classification Tool and Recidivism"

Sex Offender Recidivism 18 and 36 Months Post Release



Cohort of 367 JRA sex offenders released to parole between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2002

Target:

Reduce sex offender recidivism by 20%

Analysis:

Initial strategy to achieve target was to reduce Level 3 sex offender recidivism by 50% by identifying and targeting dynamic risk factors common to this group of re-offenders.

Because of the small sample size of level 3 re-offenders (6 youth) no robust conclusion regarding dynamic risk factors to target could be drawn

Additionally, risk factors present in Level 3 offenders were as likely to be present with Level 1 and Level 2 re-offenders.

36 month recidivism data for the cohort of 367 youth provided a larger re-offender sample size (21 versus 14, see chart).

Case reviews conducted on the 21 re-offenders' in comparison with non re-offenders' identified dynamic risk factors for re-offenders we believe could be productively targeted

Risk Factor Presence Comparison

<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>Re-Offenders</u> N =21	<u>Non Re-offenders</u> N=17
• The youth expressed cognitive distortions to justify sexual offending while on parole	76%	69%
• The youth was unwilling to alter deviant sexual interests/attitudes on parole	68%	56%
• The youth lived in a high stress family environment	65%	65%
• The youth's environment allowed for opportunities to re-offend sexually	79%	81%

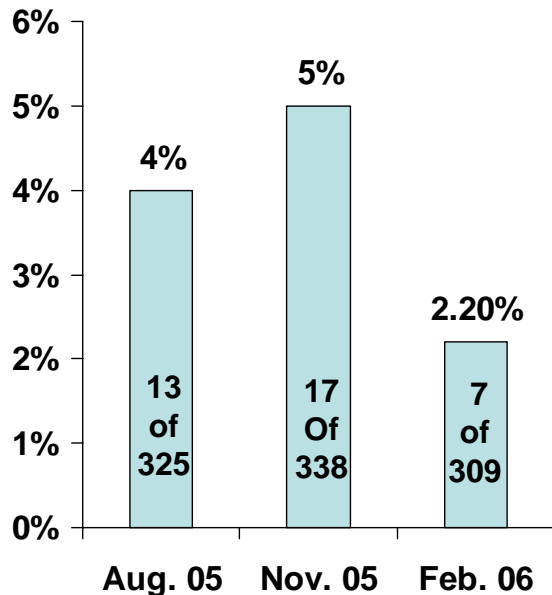
Analysis:

These four risk factors were the most significantly present in re-offender cases. The prevalence of these risk factors is no surprise and represent areas JRA has either practices or developed plans to influence.

Reducing Sex Offender Recidivism Risk Factors

Risk Factor	Action	Who	Target Date
Cognitive Distortion	Align sex offender treatment curriculum with cognitive/ behavioral evidence based practices of JRA Integrated Treatment Model and train staff to address thinking errors of sex offenders	Institution Programs Division Community Programs Division Treatment and Intergovernmental Programs Division	March 2007
Deviant Sexual interests/attitude	Align sex offender treatment curriculum with cognitive/ behavioral evidence based practices of JRA Integrated Treatment Model and train staff to intervene with deviant arousal patterns	Institution Programs Division Community Programs Division Treatment and Intergovernmental Programs Division	March 2007
High stress family Environment	Functional Family Parole, Functional Family Therapy, Family Integrative Transition to address high stress family environment	Community Programs Division Treatment and Intergovernmental Programs Division	Currently ongoing
Opportunity to re-offend	Evaluate feasibility of legislation granting JRA authority to approve/disapprove living situations of 18+ year old sex offender parolees to minimize opportunities to re-offend; develop identified request legislation	JRA Community Programs Division	6/30/06
	Develop plan for further refinement of research methods for risk factor identification, including professional research assistance	JRA Community Programs Division Treatment and Intergovernmental Programs Division	6/30/06 and ongoing

Placement of Homeless Juvenile Sex Offenders



Target: 3% (Develop 6 transitional placements for homeless youth)

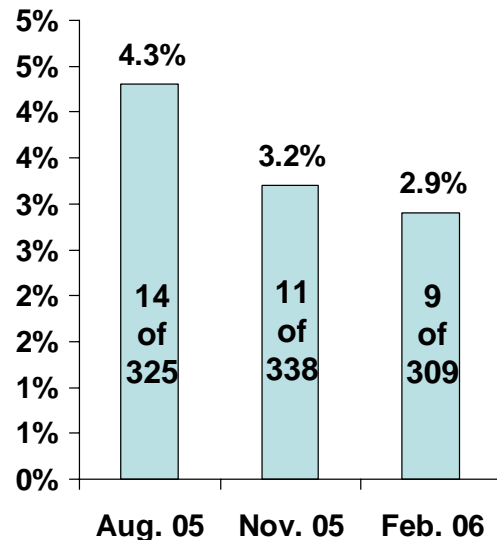
Action	Who	Target Date
Community Facilities identified as transitional placement options for Level 1 & Level 2 parolees	JRA Community Programs Division	3/28/06 Completed
Community placements identified as willing to house Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders	JRA Community Programs Division	3/28/06 Completed
Stakeholder (schools, law enforcement, employers, neighbors) communication completed	JRA Community Programs Division	4/1/06 – 6/30/06
Budget Decision Package to obtain funding for sex offender transitional housing	JRA Community Programs Division	6/30/06

Analysis:

Figures and percentages are for snapshots in time. Homeless rates fluctuate day by day. The numbers we do have suggest that on any given day between 2.2% and 5% of JRA sex offenders are homeless. The target of 3% represents an average homeless rate over 12 month periods we believe can be achieved or exceeded by developing 6 transitional placements providing support for youth treatment, education, and emancipation goals.

Whereabouts Unknown Juvenile Sex Offender Parolees

Target: 1.6%



Actions	Who	Target Date
Develop interagency agreement and collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC) Fugitive Apprehension Program to assist in apprehension of juvenile sex offender parolees on whereabouts unknown status so that they can be held accountable, supervised, and re-engaged in treatment.	Assistant Secretary's Office Division of Community Programs	6/30/06
Explore potential for contracting with off duty law enforcement officers and private security firms to locate and apprehend parole absconders	Division of Community Programs	6/30/06

Analysis:

Percentage of youth on whereabouts unknown status appears to have declined steadily since data has been gathered in the GMAP initiative. There might be an effect related to the focus on this problem now that data is being collected. However, the data are snapshots in time and the number of youth on whereabouts unknown status does fluctuate in the same way as homeless numbers. The average percentage over time of sex offenders on whereabouts unknown status based on the available data is 3.5%, still almost double the target our action plan seeks to achieve.

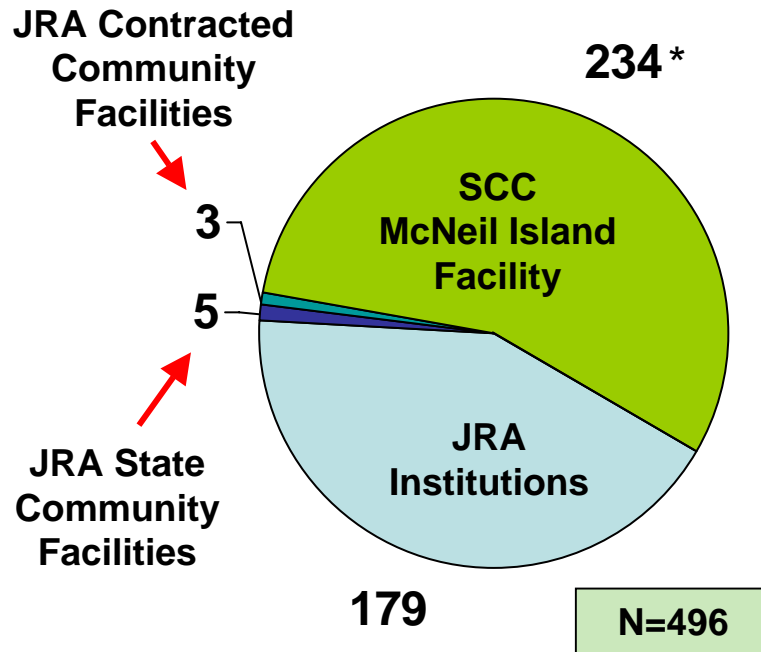
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & PERFORMANCE

PUBLIC SAFETY

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**DSHS:
Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
Special Commitment Center**

Sex Offenders Detained in DSHS Facilities



Key Measure JRA:

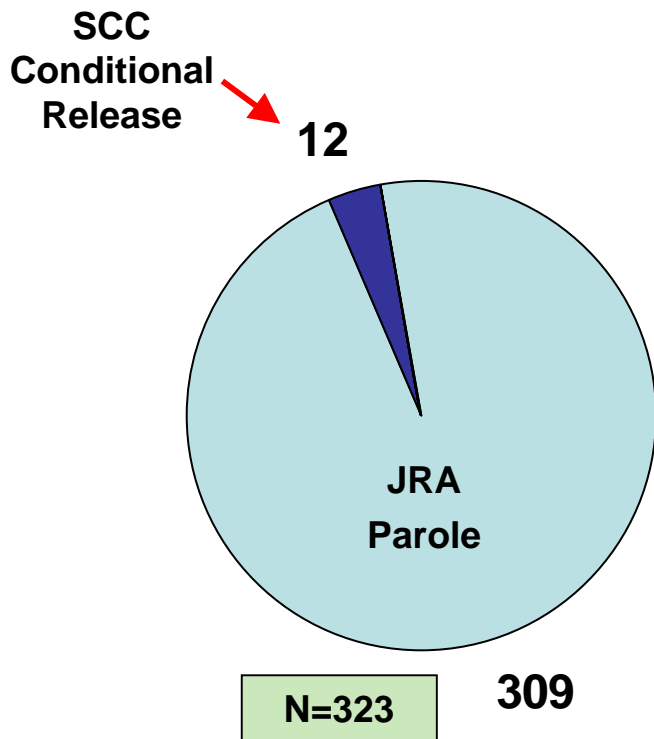
Percent in treatment: 95%

Key Measure SCC

Percent in treatment 52%

* 234 number includes two offenders returned to facility pending court review of conditional release.

Sex Offenders in Parole or Conditional Release Status



Key Measures: JRA

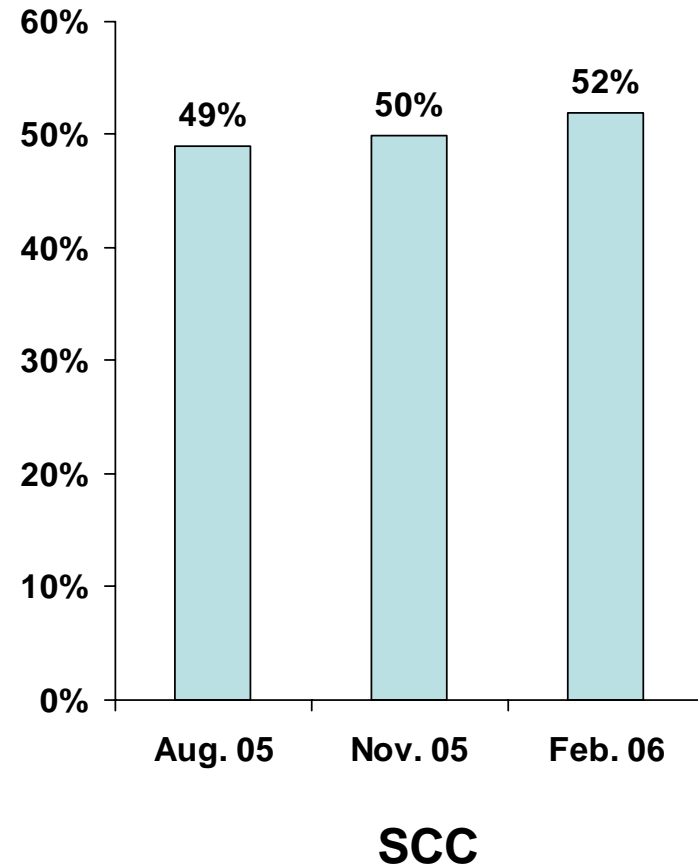
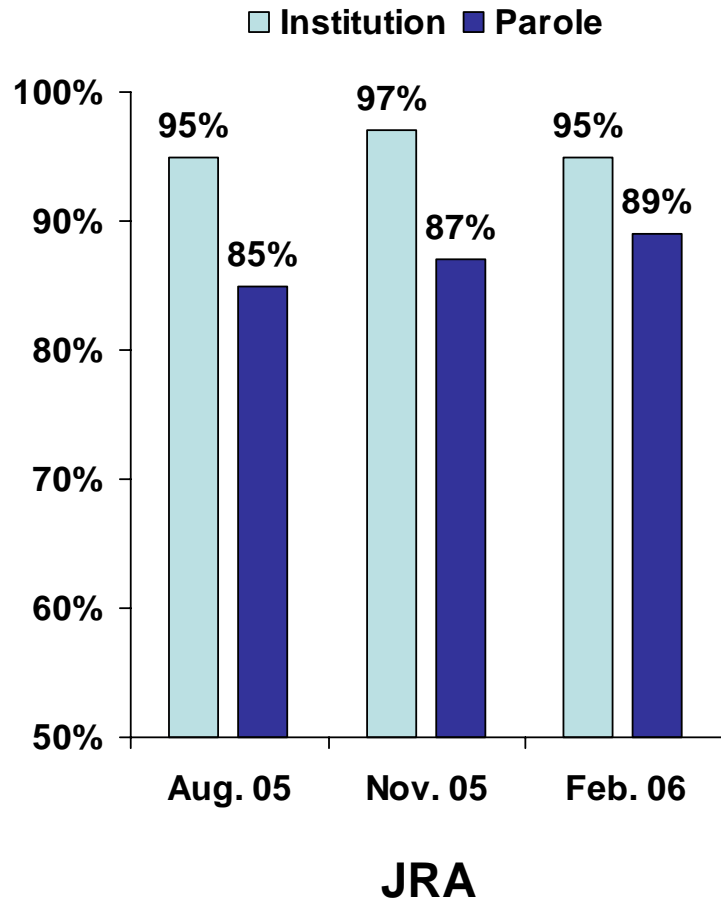
- Percent in treatment 89%
- Percent employed or in school 70%
- Percent on temporary assignment - revoked or supervised by another agency 10%
- Percent whereabouts unknown 3%
- Percent receiving public assistance 17%

Key Measures: SCC Conditional Release

- Percent in treatment 100%
- Percent employed 17%

* Does not include two offenders currently residing at McNeil Island pending court review of conditional release.

Sex Offender Treatment Rates in DSHS



SOURCE: JRA Sex Offender Treatment Coordinators; Special Commitment Center